

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AF-06 (ISO) W

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R 101610Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4056

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS PARIS 26391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR

SUBJECT: SPINOLA INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER 10 LE MONDE

REF: PARIS 25716

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL ANTONIO DE SPINOLA, IN RIO DE JANEIRO INTERVIEW PUBLISHED OCTOBER 10 LE MONDE, EMPHASIZED SEVERAL OF THE MAIN POINTS WHICH HE HAD EXPRESSED IN OCTOBER 2 FIGARO INTERVIEW (REFTEL). THUS HE AGAIN DESCRIBED PORTUGUESE ARMY AS DOMINATED BY COMMUNISTS, CURRENT GOVERNMENT AS RUSE DISGUIISING COMMUNIST CONTROL AND PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ AS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. SPINOLA
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SAID THAT HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT

PORTUGAL WOULD BECOME "ANOTHER CHILE." END SUMMARY.

2. EXPANDING ON WHAT BY NOW HAS BECOME A FAMILIAR THEME, SPINOLA AGAIN CHARACTERIZED THE WEST AS MISTAKEN IN ITS BELIEF THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE NO LONGER IN CONTROL. FOR SPINOLA, NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY, LEFTIST DOMINATION OF MASS MEDIA AND REVOLUTIONARY CELLS IN MILITARY WERE ALL SURE SIGNS OF A COMMUNIST STATE. THE COMMUNISTS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SUFFERED RECENT SETBACKS BUT THIS IS ONLY PART OF THEIR "WELL-KNOWN TACTIC OF TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE BACK."

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SPINOLA SAID HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT PORTUGAL WOULD BECOME "ANOTHER CHILE." SUCH AN EVENT, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT OCCUR AS A RESULT OF HIS OWN ACTIONS, HE PLEDGED. BUT IF THE COMMUNISTS SHOULD PRECIPITATE THE CRISIS, SPINOLA'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION (DML) WAS PREPARED TO "RESPOND TO VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE." WHY SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS BE THE ONLY ELEMENT TO ARM ITS SUPPORTERS? MDL WAS CERTAINLY JUSTIFIED IN FOLLOWING SUIT. WHEN THE PEOPLE WERE READY TO RISE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, SPINOLA SAID, THE MDL WOULD BE AT THEIR SIDE.

4. DESCRIBING THE MDL, SPINOLA CLAIMED THAT IT WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL, ORGANIZED CLANDESTINELY AS WERE THE COMMUNISTS DURING THE SALAZAR REGIME. FINANCING WAS PROVIDED BY MAINLAND SOURCES AS WELL AS BY OVERSEAS PORTUGUESE.

5. CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION AND UNWILLINGNESS TO EMPLOY FORCE NOTWITHSTANDING, SPINOLA AGAIN POSITED THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF HIS MOVEMENT AS THAT OF BRINGING "WESTERN DEMOCRACY" TO PORTUGAL. THE CURRENT REGIME, "EVEN MARIO SOARES," HAD NEITHER THE INTENTION NOR MEANS OF BUILDING SUCH A STRUCTURE.

6. CLOSING THE INTERVIEW WITH A WARNING, SPINOLA PREDICTED THAT, SHOULD THE WEST NOT CHANGE ITS TACTICS, ALL OF EUROPE WILL FALL OF ITS OWN ACCORD
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UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. CONCLUDING, SPINOLA SAID, "ALL I DESIRE FOR MY COUNTRY IS THAT IT NOT CRUMBLE MORE QUICKLY THAN THE OTHERS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS26391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750354-0222
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751061/aaaaccib.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 25716
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 NOV 2003 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPINOLA INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER 10 LE MONDE
TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006